

**POLICY DRIVEN AUTONOMIC COMPUTING – SPECIFYING RELATIONSHIPS**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           An autonomic computing system and method determine policy definitions (404) and a set of available actions (410); monitor resources distributed within the system; determine if the system is at a desired end state; and modify resource states by sending instructions for the resources to perform available actions. The policy definitions (404) specify: start order between resources, prioritization between  
10 resources, conditional activation of policies, desired end state of resources, and location limitation of resources. The system and method receive status information from available resources, and monitor and modify the system until it reaches the desired end state. The policy definitions (404) can be determined by specifying a user-defined system end state and resource relationships. The policy definitions (404) can further  
15 harvest implicit relationships between resources, via self-discovery, and underlying relationships among resources.